

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-9 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 6, 9 and 14 are independent. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request that reconsideration of this application, as amended, is made.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 14-20 and indicating claims 3, 6 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In light of this indication, claim 3, 6 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form. The subject matter originally recited in dependent claim 3 has been changed to address the objection to claim 3 noted in the Office Action.

Thus, the pending claims 3, 6, 9 and 14-20 are allowable.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

As requested by the Examiner, Applicants are submitting copies of JP-02-72298-A, KR-2000-20040-A and JP-55-13540-U together with a Letter and copy of the PTO SB08 filed with the Information Disclosure Statement of February 10, 2006. It is respectfully requested that an initialed PTO SB08 be returned to the Applicants.

Drawings

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the Office Action Summary that the drawings filed on February 10, 2006 are acceptable.

Objection to the Specification

Enclosed is a substitute specification addressing the Examiner's comments in the Office Action. It is believed no new matter has been added.

Objection to the Claim

Claim 3 is objected to because of informalities. As discussed above, to address the objection, appropriate correction has been made to claim 3. By this amendment, the objection has been obviated and is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC §102 and §103

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Roberts (US Pat. No. 6,484,437). Claims 5, 7, 8 11, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts '437. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roberts in view of Saperstein et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

While not conceding to the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to emphasize the distinctions between the present invention and the applied art. By this amendment, a sharp distinction has been made between claim 1 and the applied art.

The present invention is directed to maintain the washing machine in a horizontal state even when the washing machine is installed at a place where a bottom is sharply sloped or rugged. To this end, the claimed invention comprises, among others, a plurality of leg stoppers between the leg and the stopper base, recited in claim 1. A plurality of leg stoppers are used according to circumstances of a place where a washer is installed. Namely, a number of leg stoppers are used to adjust to a gap between a bottom of the washer and a bottom of the place where the washer is installed. The mentioned features are supported by, for instance, paragraph s [39] and [42] of the specification at page 5. and Figure 5.

Roberts '437 is directed to pest management, more particularly to controlling a route of travel of crawling vermin. For this, Roberts '437 provides a holder for isolating an article from crawling anthropoids comprising a leg, a receiving member (a leg stopper) and a base member (a base stopper) wherein the receiving member comprises an axial opening and an axial connector, and the base member comprises an axial connector and a stabilizing portion. However, Roberts '437 has nothing to do with use of plural leg stoppers. Therefore, the present invention is patentably distinct or made distinguishable from Roberts '437 in its technical construction. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this anticipation rejection is respectfully requested.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements set forth in the independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the applied art of record for the reasons explained above. All dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 10-13 are allowable due to their dependency on claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections as to anticipation and obviousness are respectfully requested.

Cited References

Since the references cited by the Examiner have not been relied on to reject the claims, but have merely been cited to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James T. Eller, Jr. Reg. No. 39,538

Application No. 10/567,962
Amendment dated September 24, 2007
Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2007

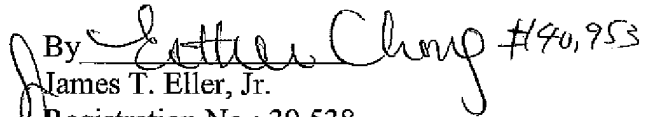
Docket No.: 3449-0593PUS1

at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 24, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By  #40,953
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